

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 26, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 26, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 14-26 and 43-68 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 14-26, 43, 44, 47-53, 56, 57 and 60-66 are rejected. Claims 45, 46, 54, 55, 58, 59, 67 and 68 are objected to. Claims 1-13 and 27-42 have been canceled by Applicants. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 18, 25, 43, 54, 56, and 67 are amended to clarify the invention. Claims 14-17, 19, 20-22, 24, 26, 44-51, 53, 55, 57-64, 66, and 68 are amended to correct matters of form. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated that claims 45, 46, 54, 55, 58, 59, 67, and 68 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claims 43 and 56 to include limitations broadly covering the subject matter of allowable claims 45-46 and claims 58-59 respectively. Applicants submit that claims 43 and 56 are allowable for the same reasons claims 45-46 and 58-59 are allowable. Applicants have rewritten claims 54 and 67 in independent form to include all limitations of their original base claims. Claims 55 and 68 are allowable as dependent from allowable independent claims 54 and 67 respectively.

Also, the Examiner stated that dependent claims 15-16 and 25-26 would be allowable if independent claim 18 was amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. Applicants have amended independent claim 18

to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph and to include limitations broadly covering the allowable subject matter in claims 15 and 16. Applicants submit that claim 18 is allowable for the same reasons that dependent claims 15 and 16 are allowable. Claim 25 has been re-written in independent form to incorporate all limitations of the original base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 26 is allowable as dependent on allowable independent claim 25. Accordingly, Applicants assert that there is no new matter in claims 18, 25, 43, 54, 56, and 67 and thus the claims are allowable.

Claims 14, 17-23, 43-44, 47-52, 56-57 and 60-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Talieh* (U.S. 6,103,628; issued August 15, 2000). Claims 24, 53 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Talieh*.

Claims 18, 43, and 56 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims that have been indicated to be allowable by the Examiner, so these claims are now allowable. Claims 25, 54, and 67 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the elements of claims that have been indicated to be allowable by the Examiner, so these claims are allowable. Dependent claims 14, 17, 19, 20-24, 26, 44, 47-53, 55, 57, 60-66, and 68 are allowable as dependent on allowable independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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